

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/609,106

Examiner

Stephen W. Smoot

Applicant(s)

REDD ET AL.

Art Unit

2813

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment filed on 07 February 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11-27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Stephen W. Smoot

Stephen W. Smoot
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2813

This Office action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on 07 February 2005.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kenneth A. Nelson on 18 April 2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-9.

3. Claims 11-27 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- Claims 11-12, 14, 20-22 are allowed because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest, in combination with the other claim limitations, a method of manufacturing a semiconductor component that includes the step of self-aligning a gate electrode to a field plate, wherein the gate electrode is formed between two ohmic contact regions after the step of forming the ohmic contact regions;
- Claim 13 is allowed because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest, in combination with the other claim limitations, a method of manufacturing a semiconductor component that includes the step of self-aligning a gate electrode to a field plate, combined with the step of forming a gate recess in a semiconductor layer that is formed above a semiconductor substrate;
- Claims 15-18 are allowed because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest, in combination with the other claim limitations, a method of manufacturing a semiconductor component that includes the step of self-aligning a gate electrode to a field plate, combined with the step of forming a second dielectric layer above the field plate wherein the second dielectric layer includes an aluminum nitride layer;
- Claim 19 is allowed because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest, in combination with the other claim limitations, a method of manufacturing a semiconductor component that includes the step of self-aligning a gate electrode to a field plate, combined with the step of forming the field plate above a first dielectric layer wherein the first dielectric layer includes a silicon nitride layer and an aluminum nitride layer; and

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- Claims 23-27 are allowed because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest, in combination with the other claim limitations, a method of manufacturing a semiconductor component that includes the steps of forming a field plate that comprises titanium tungsten nitride above a first dielectric layer, forming a second dielectric layer above the field plate and also above two ohmic contact regions, forming a hole in the second dielectric and also between the two ohmic contact regions, wherein a portion of the field plate is removed, and forming a T-gate electrode in and over the hole, wherein a spacer isolates the field plate from the T-gate.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen W. Smoot whose telephone number is 571-272-1698. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 am to 4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Whitehead, Jr. can be reached on 571-272-1702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SWS